

hydrus, a species from Western Asia. Those who prefer to consider the Chinese *Tropidonotus* as a separate specific form may call it *Trop. orientalis*, with the following characters :—

“TROPIDONOTUS ORIENTALIS.

“Scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled ; upper labials seven, the third and fourth entering the orbit ; two anterior and three or four posterior oculars ; anterior frontals not pointed, rather obtuse in front. Greenish olive, with three series of black spots anteriorly, becoming very indistinct on the middle of the trunk ; a black subrescentic spot on each side of the neck, without yellow ; posterior margins of the upper labials and a spot on the temple black. Belly more or less blackish. Three temporal shields, the anterior of which is the largest, in contact with two oculars. Ventral shields 152, anal bifid ; subcaudals 64.

“*Hab.* N. China (*Swinhoe*).

“The second species of Snakes from Pekin is *Elaphis dione*, and the specimens do not show any difference from an individual from the Caucasus.”

Dr. Günther exhibited some Charrs from different localities in England, Wales, and Ireland. He considered the Irish species undescribed, and proposed to call it *Salmo grayii* ; but promised further particulars at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Bartlett exhibited a specimen of a young Polar Bear born in the Society's Menagerie, and made some remarks in confirmation of his observations as contained in a communication to the Society on a previous occasion (see P. Z. S. 1860, p. 130).

The Rev. H. B. Tristram exhibited a Snake from Pekin (referred by Dr. Günther to *Bungarus fasciatus*) and a series of Pipits, which seemed to lead him to the conclusion that the *Anthus spinoletta* of the Continent (if a good species) occurred also in England.

The following papers were read :—

1. ON A NEW SPECIES OF PLECTROPOMA FROM AUSTRALIA.

BY DR. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

(Plate XXXVIII.)

PLECTROPOMA RICHARDSONII.

D. $\frac{10}{18}$. A. $\frac{3}{8}$. L. lat. 105.

The height of the body is contained four times and a half in the total length, the length of the head three times and a quarter. Inter-orbital space concave, half as wide as the orbit. Snout conical, with the lower jaw produced. Cleft of the mouth wide, the maxillary extending behind the orbit. Dentition very strong ; the upper jaw with a patch of cardiform teeth in front, and a narrow villiform band

on the side; there is a very long curved canine tooth on the outer side of the cardiform teeth, followed by a series of five or six teeth of moderate size. Lower jaw with a pair of very strong canines anteriorly, and with four or five strong, canine-like teeth on the side. The upper canines are received in a notch behind those of the lower jaw. Vomerine and palatine teeth in a narrow band, the former angularly bent.

Lower jaw more than half as long as the head. Præopercular margin rounded, finely serrated posteriorly, and with a small spine on the middle of its inferior margin, pointing forwards. Pectoral rounded, scaly at the base, as long as the mandible; ventral not quite half as long as the head. The spinous dorsal is separated from the soft by a very deep notch: the spines are rather slender; the fifth and sixth are the longest, one fourth of the length of the head. The soft portion higher than the spinous, with the upper margin nearly even; base scaly. The second anal spine as long as, but stronger than, the third. Caudal truncated.

Upper part of the head, cheeks, back of the trunk, and the spinous dorsal bright red; the remainder of the fish yellow, with a very broad, irregular, brown band from the axil to the lower half of the caudal. Head and upper parts of the body with scattered irregular small blue spots, most of which are edged with brown; the brown band with large dark-brown spots. Fins immaculate, except the spinous dorsal, which has a few small blue spots.

Freemantle (Australia).

Length $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The nearest ally of this species is *Plectropoma dentex*, Cuv. & Val.; but the coloration, as represented in the 'Voyage de l'Astrolabe' (Poisson. pl. 4. fig. 2), is so entirely different that we cannot refer our specimen to that species. *Pl. dentex* has been figured for the second time in the 'Voyage of the Erebus and Terror,' pl. 57, from a stuffed specimen in the British Museum. This specimen agrees well with *Pl. richardsonii* in general form, but its original colours have nearly entirely gone; large round light blotches are still visible on the side of the body, but there is no trace left of the white spots on the back. Whether this specimen belongs to *Pl. dentex* or to *Pl. richardsonii* is impossible to say; probably it is referable to the former.

2. ON A HYBRID DUCK. BY ALFRED NEWTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

I am indebted to the kindness of my friend Mr. Newcome for the opportunity of exhibiting to the Society a specimen of a fine hybrid Duck, beautifully mounted by Mr. Ellis of Swaffham, which presents several points of interest.

This bird (a male) was bred by Mr. Durham of Bremley Grange, near Ripon, from a male Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*, Selby) and a female which was a cross between the common Wild Duck (*Anas*